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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/596,224	06/14/2000	Derek Chung	URBAP002	1788

22434 7590 06/15/2005
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAO H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/596,224

Applicant(s)

CHUNG ET AL.

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-17,20-27 and 29-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-17,20-27 and 29-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4-17, 20-27 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Needham (US Patent No. 5,894,305).

Regarding claim 1, Needham discloses a computer network user interface, comprising a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another [gui that displays graphical message generated by a plurality of clients connected on a data distribution system; see abstract]; and graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment [the identifier may be an avatar of a user of client; see col. 8, lines 4-20]; wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies; and wherein a first text message from a first user is displayed within the graphical spatial context in geographic proximity to a first proxy associated with the first user[...the first area of space corresponds to the identifier; see col. 8, lines 21-27].

Regarding claim 4, Needham discloses wherein a first text message from a first user is displayed within the graphical spatial context in geographic proximity to a first proxy associated with the first user[...the first area of space corresponds to the identifier; see col. 8, lines 21-27].

Regarding claim 5, Needham discloses, wherein the message is displayed in comprehensible text only to designated users (see col. 8, lines 28-43).

Regarding claim 6, Needham discloses wherein the first text message is displayed to non-designated users as nonsense text (see figure 7).

Regarding claim 7, Needham discloses wherein first text messages are displayed for a duration of time before being displayed in a scrolling transcription of conversations between user (see col. 7, lines 31-53).

Regarding claim 8, Needham discloses in accordance with user character traits assigned to the proxies representing each user (see col. 7, lines 35-58).

Regarding claims 9-10, Needham discloses wherein said shared multiple browser format comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at least partially separated from each other by negative space (see col. 10, lines 6-61).

Regarding claim 11, Needham discloses one or more network servers each comprising a processor and a memory, one or more network clients connected with the network servers each comprising, a processor, memory, a display, and a network connector; and a network user interface, comprising, a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context for graphically displaying information relating to at least a portion of at least one web sites; graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment; wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies; and a first text message from a first user is displayed within the graphical spatial context in geographic proximity to a first proxy associated with the first user (see figures 2-7 and col. 8, lines 8-65).

Regarding claims 12-13, Needham discloses wherein said network browsing environment comprises a shared multiple browser format; and wherein said shared multiple browser format comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at

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least partially separated from each other by negative space (see col. 5, lines 5-56).

Regarding claims 14-15, Needham discloses wherein said landscape sheet is divided into sections at regular intervals, said section comprising virtual rooms for chatting; and wherein an area of interest around each particular user is defined and the intersection of the area of interest around each user and the sections defines the chat rooms in which the user is present (see col. 6, lines 25-67).

Regarding claims 16-17, Needham discloses wherein a plurality of levels of chat rooms are provided such that when the number of users present in a level exceeds a given threshold, an additional level is allocated as a separate chat room for additional users in the same area of the landscape (see col. 7, lines 8-53).

As claims 20-27 and 29-31 are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 1 and 4-17 above.

Conclusion


3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (see PTO-892).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571)272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cao (Kevin)/ Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2173

11/22/04